



The Children's Trust

Nov 2010

# Teen Dating Violence, Miami-Dade High School Students Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2001-2009

## Miami-Dade County Injury Facts

Relationships that occur in the teenage years may affect dating relationships later in life. Lessons that teens learn today about respect in their dating relationships may carry over into future relationships. Recent research has suggested that:

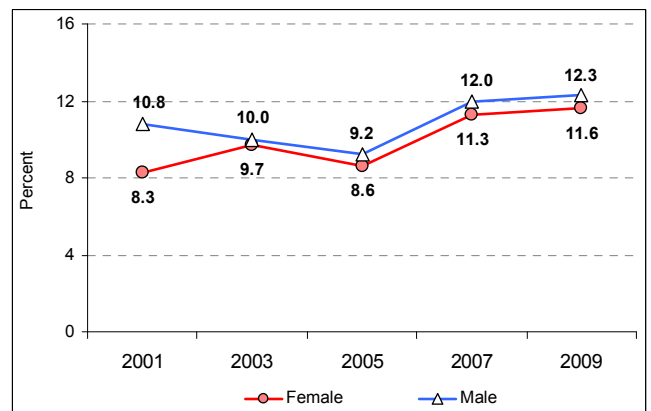
- About 1 in 11 teens reports being a victim of physical dating violence each year.<sup>1</sup>
- About 1 in 5 high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.<sup>2</sup>

This report presents longitudinal results for two questions from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that addressed teen dating violence. The YRBS was administered to Miami-Dade County senior high school students (grades 9-12) between the years 2001-2009.

### During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?

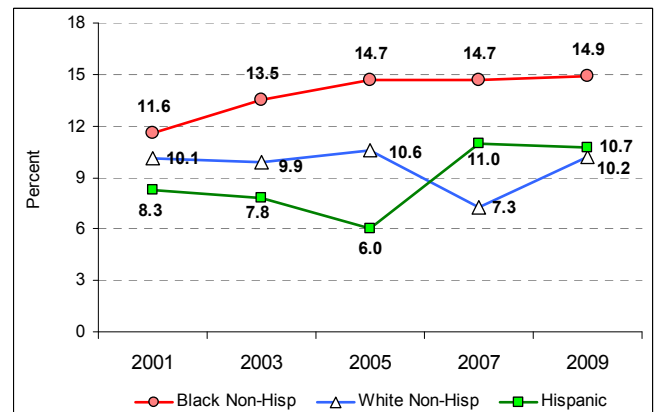
#### Gender

- Since 2003, the percentage of students that acknowledged being a victim of physical dating violence has been similar for males and females.
- The female percentage of dating violence victimization has increased 40% since 2001 from 8.3% to 11.6%.



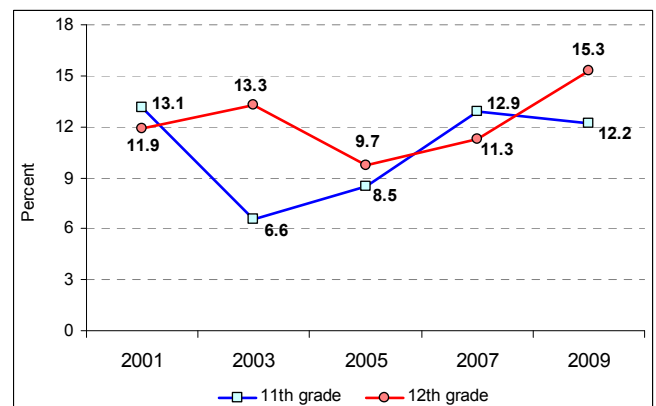
#### Race & Ethnicity

- Black non-Hispanics reported the highest percentage of physical dating violence throughout the 8-year period and it has remained steady at ~15% since 2005.
- White non-Hispanics self-reported physical dating violence has remained steady at ~10% except for a drop to 7.3% in 2007.
- Hispanic students reported the lowest percentage of physical dating violence until 2007-2009 when it increased to ~11%.



#### Grade Level

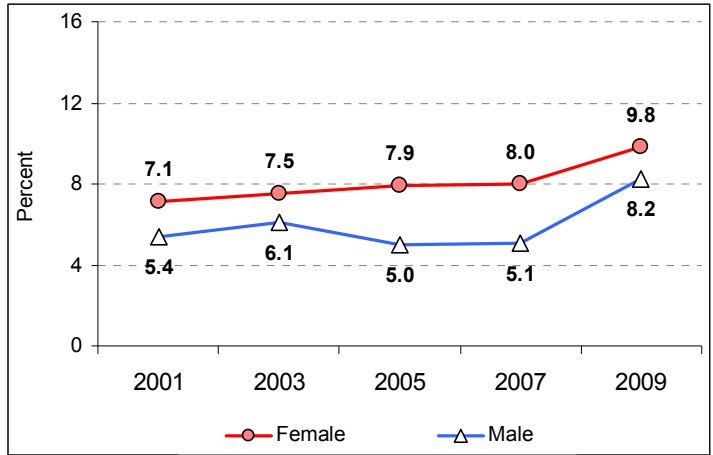
- Physical dating violence for 11th grade students increased 85% between 2003-2009 from 6.6% to 12.2% but remains below the highest reported rate of 13.1% in 2001.
- Physical dating violence for 12th grade students increased 58% between 2005-2009.
- Trends for 9th and 10th grades did not show appreciable increases or decreases during this period.



## Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?

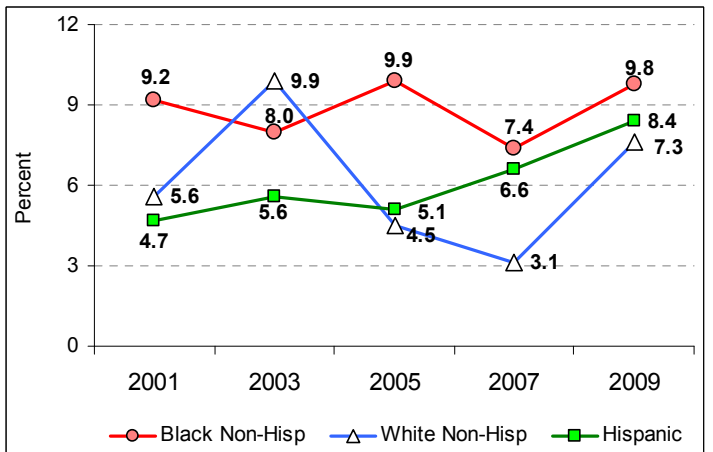
### Gender

- The percentage of females that reported forced sexual intercourse when they did not want to increased over the 8-year period from 7.1% to 9.8%.
- The percentage of males that reported forced into sexual intercourse when they did not want remained between 5-6% until 2009 when it increased 8.2%.



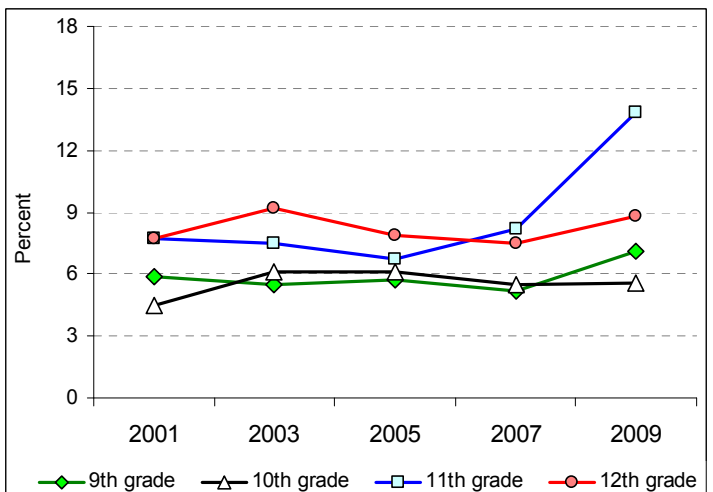
### Race & Ethnicity

- The percentage of black non-Hispanics that reported forced sexual intercourse when they did not want ranged between 7.4% to 9.8%.
- The white non-Hispanic rate of forced sexual intercourse declined from 9.9% in 2003 to 3.1% in 2007 before increasing sharply in 2009 to 7.3%.
- Hispanic students showed a steady increase in reported forced sexual intercourse from 4.7% in 2001 to 8.4% in 2009.



### Grade Level

- The only group that showed any change in the forced sexual intercourse rate over the eight years was 11th grade students with an increase of 106% between 2005-2009.



## Preventing Teen Dating Violence

From "Teen Dating Violence: A Review of Risk Factors and Prevention Efforts"<sup>3</sup>:

Dating violence prevention programs need to be incorporated into systems and institutions serving youth including schools, recreational programs, juvenile justice programs, the foster care system, etc. Schools are particularly well positioned to develop a comprehensive response to teen dating violence. Components of a comprehensive school based response should include community collaboration, education, and prevention programs, as well as treatment for perpetrators and support services to victims.

For example, an advisory board on teen dating violence could be established in each school district consisting of teachers, parents, students, law enforcement, and community groups to develop specific policies for promoting a positive, safe, and violence free environment. Education and training programs need to be implemented not just for students, but also for the entire school community including teachers, administrators, and staff and most importantly parents, with programs tailored to the needs of each group.

A clear policy stating that bullying, sexual harassment, and dating violence will not be tolerated needs to be developed with explicit guidelines addressing consequences for perpetrators of violence, such as disciplinary action and mandated counseling services. Intervention and referral services should be developed that include mandated intervention programs for teen perpetrators, support groups for victims as well as group programs for those considered at high risk of inflicting violence. Clearly, creating an environment that promotes safe, respectful, and violence free relationships will require the efforts of all, but the potential benefits are enormous.

<sup>1</sup> Lynberg MC, Eaton D, et al. Prevalence and Associated Health Risk Behaviors of Physical Dating Violence Victimization among High School Students. United States, 2003. Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Silverman JG, Raj A, Mucci L, Hathaway J. Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. JAMA 2001; 286(5):572-9.

<sup>3</sup> O'Keefe ME. Teen Dating Violence: A Review of Risk Factors and Prevention Efforts (April 2005). VAWnet: The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org)

### How the Youth Risk Behavior Survey was Administered

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor health-risk behaviors known to be related to the mortality, morbidity and social problems of America's youth. The survey is conducted every other year at the national, state and local levels. Locally, the Office of Program Evaluation of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools administers a high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 6-8) version of the YRBS every other year. Classes of students are randomly selected from the county's high schools and middle schools. Students complete questionnaires voluntarily and anonymously. The behaviors monitored by the YRBS fall into seven categories: behaviors resulting in unintentional and intentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors and physical activity. More information on the YRBS report can be found at <http://oer.dadeschools.net/YRBS/YRBS.asp>

### Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Sources: CDC Div. of Adolescent and School Health  
 YRBSS Youth Online: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss>  
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 WEBSITE: <http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

